

Er. ler Parser C.

Parker. The men v/ant to know if they are to put
the carpets
on the terrace for to-night, my lady.

Ladv Viiiidertnere. You don't think it will rain,
Lord Darlington
do you?

L<>rd 'Da'lingtwi. I won't hear of its raining on
your birthday!

Z..z]v "tVz-dc/mer.* Tell them to do it at once,
Parker.

[Exit Parker C.

L.u.^d Darlington. [Still seated.] Do you think then—
of course I
urn only putting an imaginary instance—do
you think that
in the case of a young married couple, say about
two years
married, if the husband suddenly becomes
the intimate
friend of a woman of—well, more than doubtful
character—
is always calling upon her, lunching with her,
and probably
paying her bills—do you think that the wife
should not
console herself?

Lady Windermere. [Frowning ^ Console herself?

Lord Darlington. Yes, I think she should—I think
she has the
right.

Lady Wind mere. Because the husband is vile
—should the
wife be vile also?

Lord Lady Windermere. Vileness is a terrible word, Lady
Windermere.

Lady Windermere. It is a terrible thing, Lord
Darlington.

Lord Darlington. Do you know I am afraid that
good people
do a great deal of harm in this world. Certainly
the greatest
harm they do is that they make badness of such
extraordinary
importance. It is absurd to divide people into
good and bad.
People are either charming or tedious. I take
the side of
the charming, and you, Lady Windermere,
can't help
belonging to them.

Lady Windermere. Now, Lord Darlington. *{Rising*
and crossing
R front of him.] Don't stir, I am merely going to
finish my
flowers. *[Goes to table*
R C.

Lord Darlington. [Rising and moving chair .] And I
must say
I think you are very hard on modern life, Lady
Windermere.

Of course there is much against it, I admit.
Most women,
for instance, nowadays, are rather mercenary.

Lady Windermere. Don't talk about such people.

Lord Darlington. Well then, setting aside
mercenary people,
wao, of course, are dreadful, do you think
seriously that
women who have committed what the world
calls a fault
should never be forgiven?